

## REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable consideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

### *Status of the Claims*

Claims 1-11 are pending in the application, with Claims 1, 5, and 7 being independent. Claims 5 and 7 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner to overcome formal objections thereto. Claims 1, 5, and 7 have been amended to recite providing means to overcome a substantive rejection, and dependent Claims 2, 6, and 8 have been amended to render them consistent with the amendments to Claims 1, 5, and 7.

### *Request for Interview*

In the event that this amendment does not result in an allowance of the application, Applicant respectfully requests a personal interview with the Examiner before further action is taken on the application. Applicant's representative will contact the Examiner shortly to discuss this amendment and to schedule a personal interview if necessary. However, should the Examiner pick up the case for examination prior to being contacted, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the number indicated below.

### *Claims Objection*

Claims 5-8 are objected to for minor informalities in Claims 5 and 7. In addition, the Examiner suggests specific claim language for overcoming the objection. In response, Applicant has adopted the Examiner's suggestions, thereby obviating the objections.

### *Substantive Rejection*

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly being unpatentable over the patent to Ogino et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,864,910) in view of the publication to Honda et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0201764).

In response, while not conceding the propriety of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), Applicant has herein amended independent Claims 1, 5, and 7. Applicant submits that as amended, these claims are allowable for the following reasons.

Claim 1 relates to a stereoscopic photographing lens unit that is attached to a camera main unit having a recording medium on which picture signals representing an image formed by the stereoscopic photographing lens unit are recorded, the stereoscopic photographing lens unit having a first photographing optical axis and a second photographing optical axis. The unit comprises control means for controlling a photographing optical system including the stereoscopic photographing lens unit, and means for transmitting predetermined information of the photographing optical system, including control information provided by the control means, to the recording medium in the camera main unit for recordation on the same recording medium together with the picture signals in such a manner so as to permit reading out of the transmitted predetermined information with the picture signals from the recording medium during reproduction of the picture signals.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the unit relates to a stereoscopic photographing lens unit for enabling the reproduction on a display of information needed to properly display and view a stereoscopic image produced by the lens unit.

Claim 1 has also been amended to recite means for providing information to the recording medium that is to be reproduced on a display and that is needed to properly display and view a stereoscopic image produced by the lens unit by transmitting predetermined information of the photographing optical system, including control information, that includes the information that is to be reproduced on the display that is needed to properly display and view a stereoscopic image produced by the lens unit, provided by the control means, to the recording medium in the camera main unit for recordation on the same recording medium together with the picture signals in such a manner so as to permit reading out and display of the transmitted predetermined information with the picture signals from the recording medium during reproduction of the picture signals.

Support for these amendments can be found at least at page 12, line 20 through page 13, line 2 and page 14, lines 1-8 of the specification.

In contrast, neither the Ogino et al. patent, nor the Honda et al. publication is understood to disclose or suggest the reproduction on a display of information that is needed to properly display and view a stereoscopic image. Rather, the Ogino et al. patent is merely understood to disclose automatic convergence control to permit the viewing of a stereoscopic image. And the Honda et al. publication is merely understood to disclose a still picture and motion picture camera that records various kinds of information (date and time, light source information, focal length, shutter speed, etc.) onto: a magnetic track C08BJ on a film C08 and onto the memory C01E in a camera microcomputer C01 of the still picture portion of the camera; and a memory 75 in an image processor C24 and on a recording medium C28 in the video motion picture portion of the camera.

In addition, such information is understood to be displayed on the screen shown in Figures 30A - 30C and in Figure 32. But such information is not understood to be information that is needed to properly display and view a stereoscopic image.

As a result, neither of these citations is understood to relate to a stereoscopic photographing lens unit for enabling the reproduction on a display of information needed to properly display and view a stereoscopic image produced by the lens unit, as recited by amended Claim 1.

In addition, neither of these citations is understood to disclose or suggest means for providing information to the recording medium that is to be reproduced on a display and that is needed to properly display and view a stereoscopic image produced by the lens unit by transmitting predetermined information of the photographing optical system, including control information, that includes the information that is to be reproduced on the display that is needed to properly display and view a stereoscopic image produced by the lens unit, provided by the control means, to the recording medium in the camera main unit for recordation on the same recording medium together with the picture signals in such a manner so as to permit reading out and display of the transmitted predetermined information with the picture signals from the recording medium during reproduction of the picture signals, as also recited in amended Claim 1.

To establish a prima facie case of obviousness against a claim, MPEP § 2142 requires the cited art to disclose or suggest *all* the features recited in the claim. But here, as noted above, the citations to Ogino et al. and Honda et al. are not understood to disclose or suggest at least two features of amended Claim 1. Therefore, a prima facie case of obviousness is not understood to have yet been established against amended Claim 1 over the Ogino et al. and Honda et al. citations. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claim 1 over these

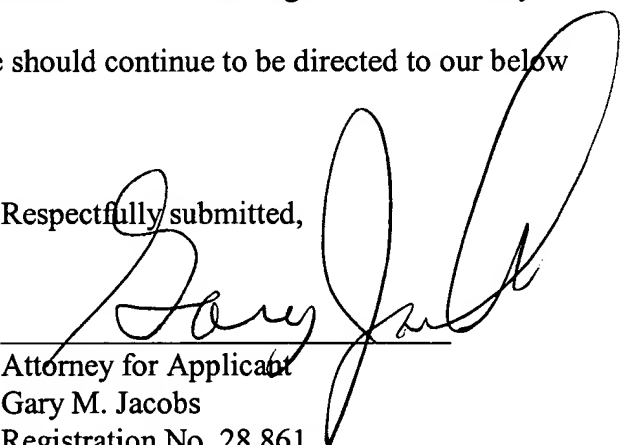
documents be withdrawn And since Claims 5 and 7 have been amended in a manner similar to Claim 1, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claims 5 and 7 also be withdrawn for similar reasons.

The dependent claims are allowable for the reasons given for the independent claims and because they recite features that are patentable in their own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully solicited.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the application is now in allowable form. Therefore, early passage to issue is respectfully solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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